

August 15, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Plan says "broadband can and must serve as a foundation for long-term economic growth, on-going investment and enduring job creation." The goals of this plan seek to provide benefits to consumers, businesses, healthcare, public safety and other government users located in or traveling to rural communities and who are seeking access to the latest generation of mobile services.

Under the national plan, all of Illinois could have 4G service by 2015. While broadband enabled technologies have clearly brought tremendous economic benefits, the benefits have not reached enough businesses, communities and American workers. Ensuring innovation flourishes across all aspects of the broadband system—broadband networks, devices, and applications—is crucial to the future of the country.

According to the your commission, small businesses account for a majority of the more than 1.2 million new jobs generated by the growth of the Internet during the last 10 to 15 years. Expanding competition and broadband services will create small business jobs in all of Illinois and throughout the United States.

In your leadership position at the FCC, I strongly urge you to continue your efforts to enhance competition in this area to help residents of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Toppert", written in a cursive style.

Debra Toppert